

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 /087 W

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R 210954Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2672

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0149

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, AO, ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTS ON CHARACTER OF MPLA LEADER
NETO

1. IN AN ASIDE DURING CONVERSATION WITH ME EVENING JANUARY 19
ON SUBJECT OAU EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT AND FUTURE OF ANGOLA,
ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA FREELY EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON MPLA
LEADER AGOSTINHO NETO. KAUNDA INDICATED HE REGARDS
NETO NOT ONLY AS HARD MAN TO UNDERSTAND BUT ONE WITH KILLER
INSTINCTS. ZAMBIANS HAVE PRETTY MUCH WRITTEN NETO OFF AS A
TRUE LEADER.

2. AS EXAMPLE OF WHAT HE MEANT, KAUNDA RECALLED TIME WHEN
NETO WAS IN LUSAKA FOR OCTOBER 1974 MPLA CONGRESS CONVENED TO TRY
REUNITE THEN BADLY DIVIDED MOVEMENT. KAUNDA SAID THAT HE PERSON-
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ALLY HAD SPENT SIXTEEN HOURS NON-STOP AT STATE HOUSE TRYING TO

CONVINCE NETO OF NECESSITY FOR UNITY WITHIN MPLA ITSELF TO SAY NOTHING OF NEED TO WORK TOWARD UNITY AMONG THE VARIOUS ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ALL NETO COULD THINK OF, KAUNDA SAID, WAS TO KILL DISSIDENT MPLA LEADER DANIEL CHIPENDA AND SO ELIMINATE THAT OPPOSITION WING. MEANWHILE DURING THIS NETO VISIT TO LUSAKA, ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES UNCOVERED PLOT HATCHED BY DISSIDENT ELEMENTS FROM CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE FACTION OF MPLA TO KILL NETO. ZAMBIANS HAD APPREHENDED PLOTTERS AND THUS SAVED NETO'S LIFE. WE HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY PUBLICITY TO THIS KAUNDA CONCLUDED.

3. UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI TOLD US THAT KAUNDA (WHOM SAVIMBI SAW JANUARY 20) HAD LEARNED FROM SAMORA MACHEL WHILE AT RECENT DAR MEETING FOUR HEADS OF STATE THAT MOZAMBIKAN LEADER'S SUPPORT FOR MPLA ARISES PARTLY FROM IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION BUT ALSO, MACHEL ADMITTED, BECAUSE NETO HAD BULLIED AND THREATENED HIM INTO SUPPORT FOR MPLA.

4. COMMENT: KAUNDA'S DESCRIPTION OF NETO AS VINDICTIVE AND UNCOMPROMISING OPPONENT OFFERS LITTLE HOPE TO BELIEVE NETO COULD EVER EASILY BE BROUGHT EITHER TO SHARE POWER WITH FNLA AND/OR UNITA OR TO STEP ASIDE FOR COMPROMISE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY COMPOSED OF SECOND STRING ELEMENTS FROM ALL THREE MOVEMENTS. SAVIMBI HIMSELF TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT HE SEES NO SIGNS NETO WILLING TRY WORK WITH HIM, MUCH LESS WITH ROBERTO, AND IMPLIED THIS LIKELY REMAIN MPLA POSITION SO LONG AS NETO REMAINS ITS LEADER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0526
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760135/aaaabeul.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTS ON CHARACTER OF MPLA LEADER NETO
TAGS: PINS, AO, ZA, MPLA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID), (NETO, AGOSTINHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006